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March 4, 2021

Victoria Newton  
Executive Secretary  
Executive Council  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Re: Retention of Special Counsel


Dear Victoria:

Our office requests Executive Council approval to retain special counsel to provide legal advice to the Treasurer's Office on probate issues in connection with the disposition of unclaimed property. Our office lacks expertise in these matters.

The treasurer's office has engaged Wandro & Associates, PC (previously Wandro & Bear, PC) for the last 10 years as special counsel to handle these matters. The Treasurer's Office has contacted Steve Wandro of Wandro & Associates, PC, 2501 Grand Avenue, Suite B, Des Moines, Iowa, 50312 to determine if they would like to enter into a new agreement. For probate matters, the firm proposes a flat fee of \$75 for routine matters and \$175 for more complicated matters. For probate matters that cannot be resolved at a flat rate, the firm would charge hourly rates that range from \$250 to \$150 per hour. When hourly rates within this range are charged, the firm proposes to utilize attorneys with the lowest hourly rates who have the appropriate level of experience and knowledge. The firm may utilize a paralegal, as appropriate, at an hourly rate of \$90. All attorney fees and costs will be paid from the Unclaimed Property Fund.

This compensation arrangement is equivalent to the fees paid previously to Des Moines law firms. Accordingly, our office recommends that Wandro & Associates, PC, be approved as special counsel to handle these matters for the Treasurer's office.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY S. THOMPSON  
Solicitor General